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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

TORIKAI et al.

Art Unit: 3683

Application No.: 09/190,235

Examiner: B. Pezzlo

Filed: November 13, 1998

Attorney Dkt. No.: 107348-08078

For: VIBRATION SOUND REDUCING DEVICE, AND PROCESS FOR ASSEMBLING
ELASTIC MEMBRANE IN VIBRATION SOUND REDUCING DEVICE

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RESPONSE TO REQUIREMENT FOR ELECTION OF SPECIES

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

February 6, 2003

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated November 15, 2002, Applicants hereby provisionally elect Species 1, Figure 3. Claims 1-6 and 24 read on such species. This election is made without traverse and without prejudice to or disclaimer of the other claims or inventions disclosed. However, Applicants do note that claims 1-6 and 24 are generic to each of Species 1-8. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that Species 1-8 be examined together.

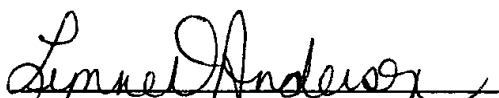
Applicants reserve the right to claim additional species in the event that a generic claim thereto is found to be allowable in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.141(a). Consideration and allowance of all pending claims, are respectfully requested. Applicants also reserve the right to file Divisional applications directed to the non-elected species.

Although a reply to an Election of Species Requirement is normally due within 30 days from the date of the Office Action, the Examiner inadvertently set the period of reply to expire in three months. Therefore, it is believed that extensions of time are not

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required. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 01-2300 referencing docket number 107348-08078.

Respectfully submitted,


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